

What are the benefits of an EHCP?

An EHCP may be needed where a child needs more support than is available through the school's SEN funding.

It is a legal document which describes a child's education, health or social care needs. It is produced in conjunction with the child, parents, and all people who work with your child. It explains the extra support that *must* be provided to help them achieve their goals, no matter what school or class they are in.

It will be reviewed every 12 months (or every six months for younger children) to discuss your child's progress and set new targets if appropriate.

The amazing thing is that the EHCP will be reviewed every year until your child is 25 years old. This means that even in college, university or in the workplace, there is a legal obligation for adjustments to be made to ensure your child is supported in whatever they choose to do.

It can take a while to build up an application for an EHCP and unfortunately there is no guarantee that an application will be accepted. An EHCP application is submitted to, and issued by the Local Authority (Lancashire County Council).

Who should I contact with any questions?

If your concern or query is class related, please contact your child's class teacher.

For any enquiries about EHCPs or more specific SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) queries, please contact the school's SENCo, Mrs Haworth, sendco@st-augustines.lancs.sch.uk

We work with many outside agencies and can signpost other support if needed.



Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP)



The Graduated Response

School will conduct regular meetings with you to ensure you are well informed.

Once a special educational need has been identified, the school will begin to record a 'Graduated Response', which is otherwise known as the 'Assess, Plan, Do, Review' cycle.

This means that we will try many strategies to support your child. We review these regularly, and assess whether they have been successful or not. We then adapt our practice if needed. In many cases, outside agencies such as Speech and Language Therapy, Paediatricians and often an Educational Psychologist will be involved with your child; school will take all of their recommendations and add these to the Plan, Do, Review cycle. All of this is recorded and will be submitted as part of the EHCP process. We are required to provide a number of cycles of reviews, so this can take up to a year.

The Application Process

Once the school has built enough evidence through the graduated response that further support is needed, the application is nearly ready to submit. School also needs to gain advice from other professionals and submit any reports from Speech and Language, Occupational Therapists and Paediatricians etc. We are also required to submit minutes from meetings to allow the panel from Lancashire County Council to get a full picture of your child's needs.

Once submitted, the local authority **must** inform you that an EHC needs assessment is being considered. The application will then go to a panel of professionals who will inform you, after 6 weeks, whether the application will now be open to assessment, or whether your child should continue to be supported within school funds.



The EHCP is a legally binding document that gives assurances over your child's education and offers them a great chance for an even brighter future.

If it is decided that your child's application should be considered, the panel will ask for advice and information from you as parents/carers, the school, and any health or social care professionals who work with your child.

They will be asked about your child's strengths and difficulties and their opinions on what outcomes would make a difference for your child.

A decision to **issue an EHC plan** will be made if the panel agrees more specialist support is needed. A decision **not to issue an EHC plan** will be made if the panel agrees the support can be provided within the resources usually available in a mainstream school.

The decision will be made within 16 weeks of the request being received and you will be notified by letter of the outcome.

